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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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SUBJECT: "FORTHNIGHTLY FOOD SHOPPING TIPS." Information from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S.D.A. and the Consumers' Counsel, A.A.A.

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Once again here's news for the housewife who buys food for the family.

Here are more tips on supplies of seasonal foods coming to market.

This summer we probably won't have so much fruit as last summer. The 1940 crops of early peaches, apricots and sweet cherries are smaller than the 1939 crops. Plum and grape crops will be about average in size. But you can expect more California Valencia oranges than were on the market last year.

The first apricots, peaches and plums have already appeared in the markets. More will be coming in every day now. A good many California cherries are on the market now, too. This is the peak month for cherries from California. And this month and next are the peak months also for California Valencia oranges. The first grapes come to market either the very last of June or early in July.

Fruits and other food supplies from the farm won't be going abroad this summer as in other years. The war in Europe has cut down our export prospects so for the next few months anyway our food exports will be very small.

Now here's the fresh vegetable picture at the moment. More vegetables are coming to market and will continue to come during July. But just the same, the markets haven't as many fresh vegetables for sale as they had a year ago. Growers didn't put in as many acres of vegetables as they did last year. So the supplies of snap beans, cucumbers, cabbage, celery, egg plant, onions and peppers are smaller. But the markets have more asparagus, carrots, lettuce, green peas

spinach and tomatoes. (That's the general picture in the United States. Your markets may just happen not to fit into the picture. The local situation may be different.)

Up to a month ago tomatoes were fairly scarce but a good number are coming to market now. During June 5 States ship the most fresh tomatoes. These States are: Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, South Carolina, and Louisiana. But the tomato crop in these States is a little smaller this year than last.

During this month and next you're likely to find more new potatoes for sale. Potato crops are maturing several weeks later than usual. And potatoes from several States may overlap this month and bring a lot of potatoes on the market at once.

Now for a little news about melons. The predictions right now are for fewer cantaloups but more watermelons this year. During June most cantaloups on the market come from California and most watermelons from Florida. California ships more cantaloups in June than in any other month of the year.

The strawberry season ends in July, you know. This month not so many berries will be on the market as last June.

Not so many peaches during June and July either. The southern States send most of the peaches to market this month and next. And the southern peach crop is about a third smaller than last year's crop.

So much for fruit and vegetable news. Now here's a little meat news. The meat situation seems to be about the same as in recent months. Much more meat is on the market this year than a year ago. The big increase is in pork, but more lamb and better-grade beef are also for sale. More hogs, better-grade cattle, and early lambs have been going to market this month than went during May.

As for eggs and poultry, the predictions are for less poultry and more eggs. During June more chickens from the spring hatch go to market but not so many chickens will go this June as a year ago.

June, you know, is the big month of the year for milk. Milk production reaches its seasonal high point in June and then declines monthly during the rest of the year. This June's milk supply will probably be even larger than last June's. But even so the country won't have quite so much butter, because not so much butter is in storage. Evaporated milk will be much more plentiful than a year ago. In recent months more milk has been evaporated than ever before and the stocks of evaporated milk in storage are also the largest ever.

From these bits of news about foods now coming on the market, you might make a guess that a good buy of the month in fruit is probably California Valencia oranges; in vegetables may be asparagus, carrots, lettuce, green peas, spinach, tomatoes, or new potatoes; in meat may be pork, better grade beef, or lamb. Eggs, milk and butter should also be good buys this month because they are so plentiful.

And that concludes the tips for the family food-shopper today. More tips will be coming in in a couple of weeks.

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